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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 6 September 1985

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1. (Schreiner) My working lunch with U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Swaziland Harvey Nelson was an enjoyable and beneficial meeting. The new ambassador is a career FSO nearing retirement who has extensive African experience, including three years in South Africa. This is his first ambassadorial assignment. He is an amicable gentleman who clearly prefers informality. He has never served at a post colocated with FBIS, but he knows our product. He says he has received complimentary reports on [] and other mission officers from the current chargé, Gerald Scott. He asked first about the bureau's coverage area and then about the size of our staff. After I responded, noting that it was our smallest staff, he asked if we had enough people. I then took Sue's advice and mentioned that the continuing events in South Africa might force the bureau to extend its hours to include a weekend evening shift, which would in turn require an extra U.S. staffer and a local. His response was: "That makes sense." The issue came up several other times as we were discussing South Africa, so I feel he is well primed for a formal request from Sue if we decide on a staff increase. I emphasized the importance of South African TV and said that it was likely we eventually would have to enhance our capability for monitoring TV. I also mentioned that the bureau could provide him with any or all of its file. He said that he would visit the bureau for a tour and briefing soon after his arrival and discuss local services with Sue at that time. He currently has been assigned a task of "public diplomacy" in support of the Administration's South African policies (a task which he is not enjoying); this will delay his arrival in Swaziland until early October.

(cc: D/FBIS, C/E&PS, C/DRD, C/Swaziland Bureau)